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W E E K L Y S T A T I O N R E P O R T S

of the office of

D R Y L A N D A G R I C U L T U R E I N V E S T I G A T I O N S

Bureau of Plant Industry

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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NOV 7 1917

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27, 1917.

Amarillo:

This past week has been a bad one so far as weather goes-strong, chilly winds at times in the nature of dust storms have prevailed during the day and every night but two has been frosty. Sky for the most part has been fair and there has been no precipitation. Thistles blowing over the station lodge in the row crop plats necessitating their being forked out before the crops can be harvested. The work of harvesting the row crops being brought on in rush order since the frosts, has been much delayed due to breakdowns and trouble with our old binder. The grain sorghum varieties are now most all harvested and we hope to get at milo and kafir on the D.L.A. project early next week. The final round of soil sampling for the season was half completed during the week.

Weather for the week was: maximum temperature 77, min. 20, wind vel. 9.6 mi.

Archer:

Only about three days of this week have been favorable for field work; and they were spent in soil sampling, fall plowing and corn husking. Another half day will finish the soil sampling, which the finals of the M.C. corn series. There are twenty plats yet to be fall plowed. Half of the corn was husked. Some of the ears are still quite moist inside the shock. About five per cent are immature. The best yield yet weighed is 23.4 bu. per acre on rot. #3, figuring eighty lbs. to the bushel.

About three inches of snow fell on the 26th, drifting to some extent. It has been cold and windy much of the week. Temperatures: max. 68, min. 10, precipitation .37", all snow, average wind velocity 10.3 miles per hour.

Colby:

The cold weather continues. Freezing temperatures were recorded seven out of the last nine nights. Twice the minimum has gone to six. Yesterday it snowed lightly all day, and the night was so cold that water pipes froze in some of the homes. The milo and feterita threshing was finished Saturday, which practically completes the field work for the season.

Weather for the week: Maximum temperature 76, minimum 6, precip. .22",sn.2.5.

Edgeley:

Only one day's plowing could be done this week. Weather continues to be disagreeable and snowdrifts will probably remain through the winter. Field work on plats was finished during the week.

Max. temp. 42, minimum 1, precipitation .02".

Garden City:

We have had another week of dry windy weather. The wind blew so hard at times that it was impossible to haul in plat stuff. Winter wheat that was plainly visible a week ago can hardly be seen now. The growth made has nearly all died back, and prospects for a winter wheat crop next year are not now very promising. Most of the week was spent in weighing crops grown on the project; selecting next year's seed, and making dry matter determinations on the Moisture Reduction plats. The stover and fodder yields on the Moisture Reduction plats were excellent, but the yields secured on the Dry Land plats are rather light but good for the season. Weights are yet to be secured from a number of the plats. Max. 72, min.7, wind (2'ane) 8.4, (8') 12.8 miles.

Huntley:

Potatoes were dug during the week as were also the root crops in the dry-land garden experiment. Sunflowers and hemp in the oil seed test were thrashed and the seed cleaned. Manure was spread on the plats requiring this treatment in the rotations last Thursday. This will be worked under at the first apportunity that offers..Frequent showers and snow flurries have occurred throughout the week but no beneficial amount of precipitation has fallen at any one time. Temperatures for the week, max. 65, min. 18, precip..22".

Mandan:

The week has been unusually cold for this time of the year and as a result the ground has been frozen much of the time to a sufficient depth to prevent plowing. Tree cuttings have been made in quantity, mostly of the laurel-leaf willow. The vegetable variety trial plats have been manured.

Max. temp. 51, minimum 12, several flurries but nothing to measure.

Tucumcari:

Wind velocity 6.7, max. temp. 84, min. 28, precip. T. This was a hoar frost. The work of the week has consisted of heading, by hand, all milo in crop field. There were about 11 acres of this and it was finished. Some crops whichwere sufficiently cured were brought in and weighed; the thresher was set up for running and 9 plats of millets and cowpeas were threshed. If favorable weather conditions prevail I expect we will thresh all seed cowpeas, all of the earlier varieties of sorghums and make a start on the milo this coming week. Cotton, such as it is, will be ready for the first picking the latter part of the coming week or the first of the week after. A severe wind blowing today, the 27 has started several little spots in the plat field to blowing; nothing serious yet however, and just as soon as crops can be brought in we shall endeavor to prevent any serious blowing. We have had very dry weather since early Sept. and unless we get moisture some time in the near future the land is bound to blow. It has been so dry the past several weeks that we have been unable to do any plowing.

Woodward:

The week has been cold and windy with only 2 nice days. The broom corn has all been pulled and the brush hauled in and put in ricks. One day was spent in resetting shocks that had blown over. The work on the rots. has included plowing harrowing and planting. The plat A on MC winter wheat was plowed and harrowed on the 26.The plowing was done at a depth of 3". All winter wheat plats were planted on the 26. There was a good supply of moisture on all of the plats sown to wheat but plat MCA which was quite dry. Plowing for rye was done the 27th. All rye plats on the rots. and check plats were planted on same date-27th. Weather: we have had 2 cloudy days that gave good signs of rain but no rain fell. We had one day that snow fell, but not enough to call it a snow. The wheat is most cases is needing rain badly. We have had 6 nights of freezing temp. one of them 20 degrees, max. temp. 69, min 20, wind 8.1, evap. 1.064", no precip.

Mr. M. A. Carleton visited the station today.

NOTE: (For the Field Superintendents of the Office of Dry Land Agriculture.)

In reporting their monthly payrolls, station Superintendents will kindly state when men are absent from the station for a given period whether or not such absence is annual leave or leave without pay. This will avoid the possibility of the man who is absent on annual leave having deduction made from his salary for the dates he was on such leave. The character of leave should therefore be invariably indicated.

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NOV 1 3 1917

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 3, 1917.

Amarillo:

The first part of the week finishing October was a continuation of weather as reported last week-windy and chilly, the thermometer dropping to 13 during the night of the 28th. We have had frost every night this week. Since the first of this month the weather has moderated considerably, the days being fine for field work.

Milo and kafir on the D.L.A. project were harvested the first of the week. Due to standing so long after frost struck and thru heavy winds, the sorghums, especially milo, were badly lodged and many of the early ripe heads were broken off, making it necessary to follow up the binder by hand to gather the leavings. Winterwheat and rye seeded the 19th was up yesterday, cold weather having retarded the emergence of these crops. However, dry surface soil condition is holding the wheat back in the A plat and in disked corn ground plats. Plats for late fall plowing are being worked today. These were double disked before plowing on account of the dry soil condition. Fall soil sampling was continued during the week and will be completed first of next. Preparation has been made to start threshing the sorghum crops next week. The Indian corn varieties were gathered and of the 13 different kinds tried out, none of them amounted to anything nor made as good a showing as our Mexican June corn. The Drug and Oil plantings for Stockberger were practically a failure.

Weather for the week was : max. temp. 78, min. 13, avg. wind vel. 8 miles, precipitation-trace from a skift of snow on the night of the 28th. The average mean temperature for last month was 2 degrees below normal. Hourly wind velocity was 8.1 miles against a normal of 7.2 miles. Precipitation was .31" or 1.04" below station normal. Total precipitation up to Nov. 1st for the year is 14.78"-the deficiency being 2.26" by station records. Evaporation for Oct. was 6.449".

It was neglected to state last week that Mr. M. A. Carleton of the Cereal Office was a visitor at the station on Oct. 26th.

Archer:

All the field work for the season was finished this week. About half of the fall plowing of the plats was done on the last two days; it was impossible to do it at an earlier date. Some of the plats were in fine plowing condition, but others were very hard underneath with three or four inches of loose surface, which made plowing very difficult by causing side-draft. Furrows were listed in the alleys next to the fallow and winter grain plats to protect them from the wind. The winter and the winter wheat except on fallow shows very little growth. Final moisture samples were taken on the M.C.corn, which ended the season's sampling. The evaporation tank was emptied and filled with straw for over winter.

The weather of the latter part of the week has been ideal with a gradual rise in mean temperature from the first of the week. Temperatures: max. 68, lowest maximum 13 on the 28th, minimum 1-29th, means 46 and 20. Average wind vel. 9.1, precipitation .15"; October precipitation .57", all snow.

Mandan:

We are having a few days of excellent weather, following a period of prolonged cold and windy weather. The ground which had been frozen about four inches for nearly two weeks thawed out on the second, thus permitting the resumption of field operations. The raspberry bushes and some fruit trees are being covered with soil. Boxelder and ash seed are being planted. Some fencing has been done and the balance of vegetable variety trial plats manured. Corn was husked during the week. The yields were from 5 bu. in the south field to 30 bu. in the main field. The average yield is 21 bu. per acre.

Max. temp. 68, min. 12, precipitation .02" in snow.

North Platte:

October wheather conditions have been unfavorable for winter wheat and harvesting of perishable crops. The total precipitation for the month was .35" as compared with a normal of 1.09". High winds have been of frequent occurrence and soil blowing has taken place on some fields. Temperatures have been low. A minimum of 40 was reached on the 23d. The evaporation tank was frozen over on eight mornings. Potatoes have been lost on a few farms and sugar beet harvest has been hampered to a considerable extent. Corn is about ready to husk. Labor is very scarce.

Tucumcari:

Avg. wind. 5.6 mi. max. temp. 77, min. 13. The range was 64 degrees on this date (28th), and the drop was accompanied by a stiff northerly breeze. Precipitation-Trace, evaporation .963".

The principle work for the week has been threshing and picking cotton and snapping corn from the bundle. All of the first harvested crops have been threshed, for the others we will have to wait a few days. First picking of cotton has been made-it is doubtful if there will be another. Yields are quite light on cotton.

Woodward:

We had a real touch of winter the fore part of the week. We got a light snow on Monday that covered the ground in good shape. The cold wave hit us about 2:30 P.M. Sunday and continued for several days.

The fore part of the week was spent in seeding and baling broom corn. We have six bales ready for the market at this time and there is about ten bales in the rick. This will be seeded and baled as soon as we can get to it. Thursday and Friday we finished the binding and shocking of the broom corn and milo in the increase fields and some of the Cereal plats. Saturday we seeded the orchard, vinyard and shade tree rows to oats. This was done to keep the soil from blowing during the winter. The oats will make a good mat to cover the ground and will later be killed the frost so there will be no need of having to run the mower among the trees to cut them in the spring. We will begin the threshing of the milo on the rotations and the Cereal plats the first of the week.

Work on the green house is progressing nicely. The frame work is all up and the furnace pit completed. The cement floor was run Saturday. The glass will not be put on until the work room has been completed and the pebble-dashing finished. Work on the plumbing will commence some time in the near future, also the installation of the furnace.

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